

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-07 H-03

L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01

SAJ-01 NIC-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /114 W

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R 270420Z MAR 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1566

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CH, US

SUBJECT: COMMENTS BY PAN AM AND TWA REPS ON VISIT TO CHINA

REF: HONG KONG 2841

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL, WILLIAM COWDEN, PANAM REGIONAL MANAGER, AND CHARLES BILLERMAN, TWA AREA GENERAL MANAGER, ARE ON VISIT TO CHINA WITH A GROUP OF HONG KONG BASED AIRLINE AND TOURISTS REPS AS GUESTS OF THE CHINA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE (CITS).

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH USLO OFFICERS, COWDEN AND BILLERMAN SAID THE GROUP HAS BEEN RECEIVING PREMIER TREATMENT FROM CITS AND HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET HIGH LEVEL CITS AND CAAC OFFICIALS. THESE OFFICIALS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT CHINA IS INTERESTED

IN TOURISM, BUT SAID THAT CHINA HAS HIGHER PRIORITIES AND HENCE TOURISM MUST DEVELOP RELATIVELY SLOWLY.

3. BOTH COWDEN AND BILLERMAN HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE FACILITIES AT THE SHANGHAI AIRPORT, AND WERE STRUCK BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LACK OF SOPHISTICATION OF THE ATC AND OTHER EQUIPMENT THEY

WERE SHOWN. ONLY MODERN EQUIPMENT PRESENT WAS ILS. THEY ALSO GOT THE IMPRESSION FROM COMMENTS OF THEIR HOSTS DURING THE SHANGHAI AIRPORT VISIT, THAT THE CHINESE ARE PUTTING PRIMARY STRESS ON DEVELOPING AIRPORT FACILITIES AT PEKING AND INTEND TO MAKE THE CAPITAL THEIR MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AIR GATEWAY.

4. COWDEN AND BILLERMAN SAID THEY SAW LITTLE EVIDENCE OF THE CURRENT ANTI-CONFUCIOUS ANTI-LIN PIAO CAMPAIGN IN THE CITIES THEY HAVE VISITED: CANTON, SHANGHAI, HANGCHOW, AND SOOCHOW. WHEN TOLD OF REPORTS OF SHANGHAI'S APPEARANCE ABOUT A MONTH AGO (STORE FRONTS COVERED WITH POSTERS, ETC.) THEY SAID THE CITY DID NOT LOOK THAT WAY AT ALL. HANGCHOW AND SOOCHOW (TWO CITIES TO WHICH USLO AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN PEKING HAVE BEEN RECENTLY UNABLE TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO VISIT) WERE DESCRIBED BY COWDEN AND BILLERMAN AS VERY QUIET. THEY ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN HANGCHOW THEY WERE DISCOURAGED FROM VENTURING INTO THE TOWN PROPER AND NEVER GOT A CLOSE LOOK AT THE CITY.

5. THE GROUP LEAVES FOR KWEILIN MARCH 27 BEFORE RETURNING TO HONG KONG ON MARCH 31.

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